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THOMAS G. NEWMAN,
EDITOR.

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Editorial Buzzings.

Too True! life's shores are shifting,
Every year;
And we are seaward drifting,
Every year;
Old places, changing, fret us,
The living more forget us,
There are fewer to regret us,
Every year.

—T. S. PARVIN.

Beware of people who do not love children and flowers.

In Colorado there is an abundant honey-flow, the bees work eight months out of the year, and gather the finest honey in the world, says the *Field and Farm*.

Rain by contract is the latest. The telegraphic reports in the daily papers of last Monday, are to the effect that the citizens of Goodland, Kan., have made a contract with Melbourne, the Ohio rain-maker, to produce rain in June, July and August, 1892, at 10 cents per acre.

Every good man builds his own monuments.

Dry Cedar bark is said to be good fuel for smokers, when pounded fine.

If You Have any honey to sell, get some Honey Almanacs and scatter in your locality. They will sell it all in a very short time.

Capt. G. R. Cooper, of Van Alstyne, Tex., says he will probably get 7,000 pounds of extracted-honey this year.

Charles Garrett, of Hot Springs, Ark., will exhibit at the World's Fair his extensive collection of mineralogical specimens, including the famous Hot Springs diamonds.

The North American Bee-Keepers' Convention will be held at Albany, N. Y., Dec. 8 to 11. Reduced rates on all the trunk line railroads are secured. Read the notice on page 500.

An Automatic Smoker has been invented by the French apiculturist, M. de Layens, which is said to give good satisfaction. Costs 14 francs. This is a "stray straw" from *Gleanings*.

Keep Posted.—With regard to the importance of reading bee-literature, the Rev. J. Carswell, of Bond Head, Canada, says: "In my own experience, I have often obtained from one article, information far more valuable, and that led to a financial gain far in excess of the cost of a bee-periodical. During the eleven years I have kept bees, I have been a constant reader of bee-periodicals, and attribute any little success I have had, very largely to the information obtained from this source. I can, therefore, strongly recommend every one who has bees, or intends to keep them, to subscribe for a bee-periodical."

The Wintering Problem in Bee-Keeping; an Exposition of the Conditions Essential to Success in the Winter and Spring Management of the Apiary, by G. R. Pierce. This is the title of a new pamphlet of 77 pages, just issued by the author, who has had 25 years' experience in bee-keeping, and for the past 5 years has devoted all his time and energies to the pursuit. In a private letter the author says:

Since 1880 I have been engaged, during the Winter season, in experimenting with a view to determining the cause of Winter mortality in the apiary.

The work is well written in an interesting manner. In fact, we were so much interested in it, that after commencing at the "Preface," we could not be induced to stop until we arrived at "the end." To us it was far more interesting than a novel.

The author objects to the Pollen Theory, but maintains that poor honey, honey mixed with vinegar, or even the so-called honey-dew, will be safe for Winter food for bees, if they "seal" it over in the same manner as they do the honey gathered from flowers. He thinks hibernation imaginary, and ventilation and absorbents quite unnecessary.

He details repeated tests with 5 colonies of bees, covering a period of six years. He avers that it is the position and sealing of the stores rather than the ingredient that is all-important. His experiments with sugar syrup and pollen are quite interesting.

Bee-diarrhea, he contends, "is simply a cold—intestinal catarrh—and will soon disappear, if nothing is present to irritate the intestines while they are in a sensitive and inflamed condition." Pollen intensifies the disease, but is in no way its cause. The cause is the "combined influence of cold, and lack of food."

The book is copyrighted, or we would give our readers one whole chapter with its illustration. The price is 50 cents, and the book is well worth it.

J. M. Young, of Plattsmouth, Nebr., has been interviewed by a reporter of the *Herald*. Of course, the reporter got things "mixed" somewhat, but he wrote one-half of a column about Mr. Young's apiary and honey, and says:

Having often heard of the successful bee-farm of Mr. Jasper Young, who resides in the edge of the timber east of the new fair grounds, a *Herald* reporter was detailed to visit Mr. Young. His bees were nicely located in a natural grove near the house, consisting of 85 colonies of Italian bees.

The hives were all facing the east, in order to catch the first rays of the morning sun. They were all double, and were filled in with chaff, thus making them warm for Winter, and cool for Summer, and doing away with the expensive method of wintering in a bee-house or cellar.

Mr. Young not only markets large quantities of fine honey, but he sells bees all over the West. He sent several colonies to Arizona, sometime ago, which were delivered in good condition, although they had to be hauled a number of miles by wagon.

J. W. Tefft, of Buffalo, N. Y., is again prostrated by *la grippe*. Reports are coming from all quarters, showing that this terrible affliction has come again, and that "right early."

Laying Workers.—Another cure for laying workers, is given by F. H. & E. H. Dewey, in the *American Bee-Keeper*. "Put the infected colony in a ventilated box without combs for 4 or 5 hours, in the shade or in the cellar; then drop in a caged queen, preferably a laying one, and in about two hours more pour the bees before a hive devoid of all brood, releasing the queen to run in with the bees."

The American Metrological Society has prepared a simple and excellent chart of the metric system which, for educational purposes, it will mail to any one asking for it for the cost price, 10 cents in stamps. Address Secretary of American Metrological Society, No. 41 East 49th Street, New York City.

Frank Benton, who has for years been in Europe, and made a trip to Asia and "the Islands of the Seas" to find new races of bees, is now in Washington, D. C. He is engaged by the Government in the Apiarian Section, Division of Entomology, Department of Agriculture. He is well qualified for the position. The Chattanooga (Tenn.) Times says:

Dr. C. V. Riley, United States Entomologist, has signified a desire to send Prof. Benton, next year, to India on a mission to investigate *Apis dorsata*, a species of bees of that country. No one else is so well fitted as he for the satisfactory discharge of such a mission.

Last Spring he returned with his family from a residence in the Old World of eleven years, the whole of which time he devoted to the study and exportation of bees. He established apiaries, and lived for one or more years in each of the following places: Island of Cyprus in the Mediterranean Sea; Beyrout, Syria, where his apiary was on Mt. Lebanon; Munich, Germany; Laibach and Krainburg, Province of Carniola, Austria; he also traveled very extensively, establishing an apiary on a French estate in Tunis, North Africa, and even penetrating, in the interest of apiculture, the jungles of India, where he contracted "jungle fever."

In addition to his special work he has been an ardent linguist, and speaks fluently German, French, Italian, modern Greek, and so on. At one time he was studying ten different languages.

Dr. Riley intends to put Prof. Benton in charge of the whole matter of an exhibit in apiculture at the World's Fair. This is a fitting recognition of his ability, and he can be depended on to make the most of the display. He is well-known to some of our citizens, having lived for some time in Knoxville, Tenn., where he was instructor in apiculture in the University of Tennessee.

When Columbus was made a prisoner in San Domingo, the Governor who arrested him feared there might be an attempt at rescue. So he trained a big gun on the entrance of the citadel, or castle, in which Columbus was confined. That cannon has lain in the same place ever since until now, when Mr. Ober, a World's Fair representa-

tive, recovered it, and with the permission of the Governor of San Domingo, brought it to the United States. It has been shipped to Chief of Construction Burnham in order that he may use it in some way in ornamenting the Exposition grounds.

Silver Wedding.—The Hon. Eugene Secor and wife, of Forest City, Iowa, having been married 25 years on Sept. 23, 1891, were happily "surprised" by their neighbors. The Forest City Independent says:

A grand silver wedding was celebrated in our city on Wednesday evening, Sept. 23, 1891. Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Secor have been married 25 years. A surprise party of about 100 ladies and gentlemen concluded that they would more firmly cement the holy bonds of matrimony of this worthy couple by aiding in tying a silver knot. A magnificent banquet had also been prepared by the invading guests for the occasion. A beautiful silver tea-set, and other valuable things were presented. It was a propitious occasion, and a pleasant evening was enjoyed by all.

Frosts are now to be expected. Prof. Foster's latest forecast is as follows:

Frosts are important weather events, and the first frosts in the Fall, and the last in the Spring, are quite difficult to forecast. No single frost is sufficient to kill all the tender vegetable growths in the same latitude, and where the ground is very dry, frosts are not apt to occur. A frost may kill all vegetation in one spot, and not touch anything a mile away.

I have calculated that the most important frost dates would be about Oct. 10 or 11, 17 or 18, and Nov. 2 or 3, and that the last date would entirely kill the cotton plant.

A warm wave will be due to leave the Pacific coast about the 12th, cross the central valleys about the 14th, and reach the Atlantic about the 16th.

The fourth storm wave of the month will be due to leave the Pacific coast about the 19th, cross the central valleys from the 20th to the 22d, and reach the Atlantic coast about the 23d. A cool wave will cross the Rockies about the 15th, the central valleys about the 17th, and reach the Atlantic coast about the 19th.

W. T. FOSTER.

Bees and Butterflies are thus contrasted by a writer in the *Cornhill Magazine* :

The bee is the *bon bourgeois* of the insect world. It attends strictly to business, loses no time in wild or reckless excursions, and flies by the straightest path from flower to flower of the same species with mathematical precision. Moreover, it is careful, cautious, observant, and steady-going—a model business creature, of sound morals, and sober intelligence. No flitting for it, no coquetting, no fickleness.

Therefore, the flowers that have adapted themselves to its needs, and that depend upon it mainly or solely for fertilization, waste no unnecessary material on those big flaunting colored posters which we human observers know as petals.

They have, for the most part, simple blue or purple flowers, tubular in shape, and, individually, inconspicuous in hue; and they are oftenest arranged in long spikes of blossom to avoid wasting the time of their winged visitor.

So long as they are just bright enough to catch the bee's eyes a few yards away they are certain to receive a visit in due season from that industrious and persistent commercial traveler.

Having a circle of good customers upon whom they can depend with certainty for fertilization, they have no need to waste any large proportion of their substance upon expensive advertisements or gaudy petals.

It is just the opposite with butterflies. Those gay and irrepressible creatures, the fashionable and frivolous element in the insect world, gad about from flower to flower over great distances at once, and think much more of sunning themselves, and of attracting their fellows, than of attention to business. And the reason is obvious, if one considers for a moment the difference in the political and domestic economy of the two opposed groups.

The honey-bees are neuters, sexless purveyors of the hive, with no interest on earth save the storing of honey for the common benefit of the phylanthropy to which they belong.

The butterflies are full-fledged males and females on the hunt through the world for suitable partners; they think far less of feeding than of displaying their charms; a little honey to support them during their flight is all they need. "For the bee a long round of ceaseless

toil; for me (says the gay butterfly) a short life and a merry one."

The high mountain zone is for them a true ball-room; the flowers are light refreshments laid out in the vestibule. Their real business in life is not to gorge and lay by, but to coquette and display themselves and find fitting partners.

So while the bees with their honey-bags, like the financier with his money-bags, are storing up profit for the composite community; the butterfly lays itself out for an agreeable flutter, and sips nectar where it will over large areas of country. It flies rather high, flaunting its wings in the sun, because it wants to show itself off in its airy beauty; and when it spies a bed of bright flowers afar off on the sun-smitten slopes, it sails off toward them lazily, like a grand seignior who amuses himself. No regular plodding through a monotonous spike of plain little bells for it; what it wants is brilliant color, bold advertisement, good honey, and plenty of it. It does not care to search. Who wants its favors must make itself conspicuous.

Honor again rests on the head of our friend Eugene Secor, of Forest City, Iowa, as will be seen by the following notice from the *Winnebago Summit* :

Eugene Secor has been honored by the election as a lay delegate to the General Conference of the M. E. Church. Ex-Gov. Carpenter and he will represent the laity of the Northwest Iowa Conference, comprising a territory of about 26 counties, and a membership of about 15,000.

The next General Conference meets at Omaha, Nebr., in May, 1892. It will be composed of about 500 ministerial and lay delegates from all parts of the world where Methodism is established. It is the law-making body of the church, and meets quadrennially. It will probably be in session 30 days.

Queens are introduced in this manner by H. Spuhler, and described in the *Revue Internationale* :

Several hours after the removal of the old queen, put the new one in a little cylinder made of foundation. It is closed at both ends, and furnished with little holes pierced with a needle. After daubing it with honey, put it in the middle of the brood-nest.

The Maiden and the Bee.

A little glade,
A patch of shade,
A nooklet most delightful;
A pretty maid,
Shy, half-afraid,
A buzzing bee most spiteful.

A dainty flower,
From out the bower
She plucked for her adorning;
The jealous bee
Came stealthily
And claimed it without warning.

—K. DUNLAP.

Queries and Replies.**Making Break-Joint Honey-Boards.**

QUERY 788.—Is it advisable to retain the break-joint principle in making the wood-zinc queen-excluding honey-boards?
—J. M. R.

Yes.—M. MAHIN.

Yes.—R. L. TAYLOR.

No.—J. M. HAMBAUGH.

No.—MRS. L. HARRISON.

I do not.—G. M. DOOLITTLE.

I do not use such boards.—J. P. H. BROWN.

I think it is, though I have used no others to compare.—A. J. COOK.

I cannot observe that the break-joint makes any difference.—C. C. MILLER.

I would not give 2 cents for a patent on the break-joint "principle" (?)—A. B. MASON.

There are arguments *pro* and *con*. The *pros* have the case, in my judgment.
—EUGENE SECOR.

It will be better to prevent brace-combs, but of less advantage for easy ventilation by the bees.—DADANT & SON.

By all means. Just try both ways, if you do not see the point. Use but one row of holes in the zinc strip.—JAMES HEDDON.

Not at all. I make them without regard to any break-joint principle, and am not troubled much with burr-combs.
—C. H. DIBBERN.

I think not, for there are as many burr-combs built in break-joint queen-excluders as in those with continuous

passage. We have few or no burr-combs, as we manage with the continuous passage queen-excluders.—G. L. TINKER.

This is a matter that I have never tested. It is a mooted question among our ablest bee-keepers. In theory, it looks plausible, but as tests alone will qualify one to answer, I decline giving an opinion, simply because I have not had experience in the matter.—J. E. POND.

In my opinion, drawn from practical experience, there was never anything to be gained by the break-joint "principle." It is not in line with modern principles in bee manipulation. No set of movable frames can be so evenly spaced as to match a break-joint board. Of course, they can be made to match fixed frames, but fixed frames are but a little advance from the old bee-gum or box-hive. I prefer full sheets of zinc, framed.—G. W. DEMAREE.

That is a question which allows of a difference of opinion among our best apiarists, but those who have used the break-joint principle the longest are generally very much in favor of its use. That is a good argument for it.—THE EDITOR.

Keeping Bees on Shares.

1. When bees are taken on shares, at what time should the division take place?

2. When the owner of the bees wishes to introduce new queens, who should pay for the queens?

J. A. WAGONER.

Rochester, Minn.

When bees are taken on shares the agreement should be reduced to writing, and all details should be stated. That would save much ill-feeling and many unkind remarks when a division is made. In the absence of such written agreement, the usual and reasonable course would be for the owner to furnish the bees, and the other to do all the necessary work. All expenses for extra queens, hives, sections, etc., to be shared alike. All the swarms and honey should also be shared equally. The honey should be divided at any convenient time, after it is taken from the hives, when it is desired by one or both parties.

Topics of Interest.

Correcting Some Misapprehensions.

E. R. ROOT.

I have read Mr. Draper's article over with considerable interest, and it is easy to see that he has "been there," too. I fail to see, however, wherein we should disagree. We use quite different hives, different frames, and different plans of working. His hive, as nearly as I can estimate, has about double the capacity of the 8-frame dovetailed; and his 23 large Dadant hives, with supers on top, would be but little, if any, lighter than the 57 8-frame hives that we had on the wagon. I agree with my friend, that two men would be required to lift his large hives. If the reader will refer to the quotations he will see that I was not talking about that kind of hives.

I did not say that the hives *averaged* 75 pounds (see quotation); I said from 60 to 75 pounds, and this estimate was made by one of our men, when we arrived at home. I have since found that they would hardly average 60 pounds each.

Again, I did not say that the roads were heavy with mud. They were sandy and gravelly; and although it rained furiously for a time, the water drained away. Instead of there being from 200 to 300 pounds of mud on the wheels, there was practically none.

Now, about the poor team. They are blooded Clydesdales, of the heavy draft type, and our teamster has made his boast that with them he could out-pull four average farm horses. On the trip in question, we drove so slowly (stopping at the top of each hill) that we were two hours in making the distance of seven miles. A ton and a half, or, if you prefer, two tons, is not a heavy load for our Clydesdales, and they pulled the load with ease. The excellent condition of the team attests the fact that we do not overload them. It strikes me as if friend Draper were the one who had been overloading his horses.

I did not say that all the colonies were strong. The apiary was run for increase; and while it produced about 2,000 pounds of honey, it increased from 23 to 85 colonies by dividing; and while the colonies were weak to fair strength (a few strong ones), the hives did not contain "bushels and bushels" of bees.

Another thing: the hives were moved at night, and the air was so chilly that an overcoat felt good, although I was exercising a good deal, at that. If it had been hot, or during the day, we would have used the cover screens which we had with us. Subsequent examination has shown that no bees suffocated.

We move our bees either on a cool day or at night. By taking this precaution it is not always necessary to put on cover screens. J. A. Green did not. The fact is, we must exercise our judgment, both as to the strength of the colony and the day.

And now, my friend does not see how two of us could prepare and load 57 colonies in an hour and a quarter. To save time it is our custom to "look ahead a little" (I do not know whether my friend does that or not), and before starting I had made entrance screens enough for all the hives. Into each end a wire nail was driven nearly through, so that, when we arrived at the yard, all we would have to do would be to place the screen over the entrance, and a couple of blows of the hammer would fasten it. Then we took with us hammer and nails.

An hour and a quarter for two men for 57 hives, means two and a half minutes for each hive for one man. Two nails in the cover and two more in the bottom, and the fastening of the entrance screen, was all the preparation needed, after which the hive was carried to the wagon. Do not forget the fact that the bees were on fixed frames, and, as a consequence, the hives did not have to be handled like eggs. I do not deny that we worked like beavers; but we did just as I said, by the watch, and can do it again. Yes, sir; there were 57 hives on the load. They were counted on the wagon, and after unloading.

Permit me to add, in conclusion, Mr. Editor, that if our friend, Mr. Draper, will make us a call at Medina, we will not only give him a good reception, but prove to him that the statements I have made are literally true.

Without wishing to boast, I would simply say that we are proud of our large team of heavy draft horses; and if he could see them once he would feel satisfied that they are having good treatment, and are not overloaded. Allow me to add, further, that the dovetailed hive is made with special reference to moving, and for use in out-apiaries. The difference in hives will largely explain the apparent difference in opinions.

Are We Drifting from Our Moorings?

G. M. DOOLITTLE.

I have read with interest what has been said during the present Summer about hives and their manipulation, as against the manipulation of frames, as has been the custom of the past; and, unless I am greatly mistaken, there is not in this idea all the pecuniary benefit to the bee-keeper that a superficial view of the matter would lead to expect. The idea embodies in all of its bearings, unless I am blind in this matter, two things which will be an expensive luxury to the one who adopts this idea of "handling hives instead of frames;" and these two things are, first, a radical change in most of the hives now in use; and, second, the placing of a greater number of colonies in the field, both of which are against us; the latter for all time, and the former for the near future.

This changing of hives and fixtures to the extent to which it has been carried in the past, has been somewhat against us, and the outlook for the future shows no sign of improvement. The changing of hives and fixtures in an apiary that numbers fifty, means quite an expense—an expense that will take many good years of production to pay, over and above what might have been secured with the old fixtures, even should the new prove better than the old.

Not long ago a "new" hive came out, the claim for which was that it would cheapen honey production; for surely the producer must produce his crop at a less expense than he was now doing if he was to be enabled to keep his head above water, in these times of low prices. Have we seen these great things accomplished? Let friend Gravenhorst answer: "I found out something by this new method that did not satisfy me in contrast with the old one. In the course of several years I always got more honey and wax in the old-fashioned way." While friend G. was not speaking of this particular hive as "the new method," yet he but voices what many others have found out.

To illustrate more fully just what I mean I will let the reader into a little bit of my past history, together with that of another, whose name I will not mention. When I first began keeping bees it was with the express understanding that, after the first outlay (\$35) on them, not another cent should be paid out unless they brought it in,

and that I would not pay out for new fixtures a cent of what they brought in, unless I could see that some pecuniary benefit was coming back in the near future to more than balance what I would pay out, and that I would use up, as far as might be, all of the old, without throwing away that which had cost me cash.

This understanding has been carried out all of these years; and to-day, instead of having only \$500 as my worldly possessions, as I had in the Spring of 1869, and living in a tenant house, with my small apiary on somebody's possessions besides my own, I have a comfortable home, consisting of 30 acres of land and the necessary buildings; have enough laid aside to carry me and mine through life, unless something extraordinary should happen to us, besides being enabled of later years to do something to advance the Master's interests in the world, and that which tends to uplift humanity; all having come from the bees over and above what I have paid out for them, and I still use the same old Gallup hive with which I started, and see no reason for desiring a change.

In 1869, the "another" before spoken of, counted his worldly possessions far above mine, produced much more honey each year than I did, as a rule obtained better prices, but laid out each year all or more than what the bees produced in "something new," throwing away that of the past which did not suit, and purchasing new again; till a short time ago found him borrowing money that he might still purchase something new in the "bee line," while there were wagon loads of stuff, representing thousands of dollars, to be found strewn about the premises, that had accumulated by this great desire to keep "abreast of the times," and "secure the greatest amount of income with the least capital and labor."

Now, do not understand me as "butting" against improvements, for no one rejoices more over real improvements than I do; but if I am to rejoice, the thing offered must be an improvement when viewed from all of its many sides. Talk about handling hives instead of frames! The old hive, as given us by Father Langstroth, with a movable bottom-board and no portico, can be handled just as you please after the bees have been in it (on this plan) one year; and yet how many of the bee-periodicals of to-day are recommending it as *the* hive?

To be of real value, unless a radical change is necessary, it is better to tell

us how to secure the same results with what we now have, rather than advise something new to secure these same results. The "stone that keeps rolling gathers no moss."—*Gleanings*.

Experience of a Beginner.

B. H. NEWLAND.

I wish to relate my little experience in the bee-business, and if it does not teach anything positively, it may negatively.

Last Winter I boarded with a subscriber to the BEE JOURNAL, and became really interested in the business—so much so that I bought a Revised Langstroth and AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL, and studied them very thoroughly all the Spring and early Summer. But I could forget details faster than I could learn them by reading, so in the middle of August I bought 2 colonies of hybrids, in simplicity hives, after buying five improved Langstroth simplicity hives in the flat, a smoker, and 5 pounds of foundation.

The first bad mistake I made was in locating my new industry, which is near the house, on the west side, and well shaded by three oak trees; result: my bees are late getting to work, for they cannot get the sun at all until 11 o'clock, and not much after that.

I moved my bees home, about three miles, let them rest a day, and read a chapter in Langstroth; then I divided the 2 colonies, into 4, dividing brood and honey to make them as nearly equal as I could, filling up and replacing with frames of foundation in full sheets. When doing this I looked for queens, but I could not find them. I found later that one queen was put into one of the new hives, and the other was not.

I then thought I could watch how they worked outside, and judge from their actions where the queens were; O, I had read the theory so much that I knew all about bees—could tell with my eyes shut and one hand tied behind me—could tell by the songs they sang.

Next I sent to A. I. Root for 2 untested queens, which came promptly. Now, I supposed (another mistake) that the old colonies were queenless, so I looked the frames over, and in the first one found 3 royal cells, one of them sealed. I removed these, and the next day introduced one of the Italian queens; in 2 days the bees had worked her out of the cage, and she had gone to keeping house.

The other old colony I examined on the same day that I did the first one, and found no queen nor queen-cells, but *thought* she surely had been transferred to the new hive; so I introduced my other Italian queen at once; looked in the next day and found the bees working at the candy in the cage, and quite a cluster around the cage, so I *thought*, she is all right. The next day I looked in again, and found the cage empty, and *thought* she is O. K.

I sent to Mr. Root for 2 more queens, which came in five days, when I got a man to help me who had studied bees as well as books. You see, I had never seen a queen-bee until I bought them of Mr. Root, and I wanted him to show me the queens in those new hives. The first one we looked at had royal cells, and one nearly ripe; then my bee-man wanted to know which of the old hives I took this new one from. I showed him, and he said, "Let us look through it." We did so, and found the queen, but she was not one of those which I had introduced a few days before. I think Mr. Root's queen is out in the grass in front of the hive. I caged this queen, however, with a few workers, and we looked through the other new hive, and soon found the queen and destroyed her.

I then returned the queen, which was not Root's, to her hive, and she has been there ever since, until to-day I caged her again, and to-morrow shall introduce another of Root's queens, which I have just received.

The next day after my bee-man was here I introduced the two Italians, and the second day after I found the queen in the first new hive all right on the combs, and the queen in the last hive was balled on the bottom-board, so I ran into the house for a cage, when I had one right under my nose; then I ran into the house again for a basin of water. When I picked up the ball the bees scattered, and the queen flew, I did not know where, and I spilled the water.

But I kept looking for the queen, for I did not know surely that she had flown, and after a few minutes I began to look around the other hives, and found her balled again, at the entrance of another hive, ten feet away. Then I got another basin of water, threw the ball in it, and soon had the queen caged. On looking this hive over again, I found a queen-cell which had been overlooked when I introduced the queen. I destroyed the cell, and the next day introduced the queen again, and she was accepted.

So I have had to buy five queens to Italianize four colonies, and I believe it

is worth the time, trouble and money they cost to have Italian queens, because they are so easy to find on the combs.

Some may think, on reading this, that I disparage bee-books and bee-periodicals, but I do not feel that way, for I shall get more bee-books and bee-periodicals as fast as I can afford to. I would like dozens of them.

I am feeding sugar syrup now, and intend to give 15 pounds to each colony.

Melrose, Wis., Sept. 14, 1891.

Location and Care of Out-Apiaries.

W. Z. HUTCHINSON.

When a man starts an out-apiary, it is because he thinks his home-yard overstocked, and that he will get enough more honey by the division to pay for the extra labor incurred. Overstocking is one of the most puzzling questions connected with bee-culture. We all know that a locality *can* be overstocked, but localities, seasons, and bee-pasturage are so variable that it is impossible to lay down any set rules in regard to the number of colonies needed to overstock a locality. It must not be forgotten that the yield per colony—yes, and in the aggregate—may be diminished to a considerable extent by overstocking ere the establishment of an out-apiary would be a profitable move.

I have had no experience with out-apiaries, but I believe that the majority of inexperienced bee-keepers have erroneous ideas in regard to the difficulties and expense attending the establishment and management of an out-apiary. Land must be bought or hired, some sort of a building or shelter secured, and a conveyance of some kind will be needed for carrying bees, tools, supplies, etc. Then there is the preparation of a cellar for wintering the bees, or else they must be carted home in the Fall and back in the Spring, or else protected upon the summer stands.

But when a man begins to number his colonies by the hundreds, he knows that *something* must be done. Even if out-apiaries are not so profitable as home apiaries, they are not usually run at a loss, while the removal of the surplus bees at the home yard, allows them to make better returns.

When keeping bees upon the out-apiary plan, there must of necessity be much moving about of hives from one apiary to another. An out-apiary is seldom supposed to be permanently

located. If some locality furnishes but little honey, it is wise to abandon it and put the bees in some better locality. It certainly would be wise to take considerable pains to ascertain the character of a locality before going to much expense in fitting up in Spring time. As J. A. Green said, in the *October Review*, for 1890:

"To make money with out-apiaries, it is not enough to measure off the proper distance from the home apiary, in any direction, and plant an apiary there, thinking the bees will do just as well as anywhere else. Modern apiculture must do more than that. I cannot escape from the conviction that to make the most of an apiary, it must be capable of being easily and quickly moved at any time during the working season."

When it is finally decided to start an out-apiary, how far away should it be located? We have been repeatedly told that, ordinarily, three miles mark the limit of a bee's foraging grounds; hence, if apiaries were placed six miles apart, there would be no encroachment. But it must be remembered that the pasture ground of each apiary is somewhat circular in form, and that they might be moved towards each other to a considerable extent without one encroaching upon the other very much.

Dr. Miller has given a very happy illustration. Lay two silver dollars side by side; lift the edge of one and slide it over the other. Notice how far it may be pushed over without covering a very large portion of the under dollar. Notwithstanding all this, those who have had experience in the matter are not inclined to put out-apiaries nearer together than four miles, and prefer to have them five, or even six miles apart. When the team is "hitched up," and on the road, a mile or two more travel does not take so *very* much time, and the increased yield may more than make it up. We cannot always secure the exact spot desired for the establishment of an out-apiary, and it would probably be well to go a little farther than is really necessary than to crowd some other apiary.

Having decided upon a site for an out-apiary, the next consideration is its management. Shall comb-honey be produced, or shall the honey be taken in the extracted form? Shall the apiary be managed upon the visiting plan, or shall a man be kept there all the time during the swarming season? I believe that, in the majority of cases, extracted-honey is produced in out-apiaries, as by this plan swarming can be so nearly

controlled, and the apiary visited only at intervals.

In producing comb-honey, the difficulty is that most of the colonies will swarm, unless the queens are removed. Mr. Manum, Mr. Elwood, Mr. France, and a few others practice removing the queens just at the beginning of the swarming season, and pronounce it a success.

I have, as yet, said nothing about the number of colonies to put in an out-apiary. It ought to have as many as the location will bear; certainly enough to make a day's work at each visit during the busy season. It would be unprofitable to drive off five or six miles to do only a part of a day's work. Where all necessary tools, etc., are kept at the out-apiary, and all the bee-keeper has to carry is himself, a bicycle is a very excellent kind of conveyance. It is fast, always ready, requires little care, and stings do not make it run away. If the apiaries are in or near towns connected by railroad, it is a great convenience.

Instead of having any buildings at the out-apiaries, some bee-keepers use a small tent that is easily "struck," and carried from one apiary to another.—*Country Gentleman.*

Predicting the Honey-Flow.

SAMUEL WILSON.

I have ascertained that Fall flowers fail to secrete nectar from the same cause that results in failure with the linden and white clover, and if bee-men knew the true cause of the failure of the honey crop, as I do, each one would know of the impending failure 5 or 6 months in advance.

I have discovered that the conditions that cause linden and white clover to fail to secrete nectar, produces a honey-flow from ivy. What we call ivy here is what produces poisonous honey. There is plenty of laurel, ivy and hemlock, which are nearly alike, but it is the ivy that produces the poisonous honey, and not the laurel, as I have seen stated.

At present, I am not ready to make known my secret, preferring to prove to the bee-keepers, first, what I can do. I know, beyond a doubt, the true cause of the failure of flowers to secrete nectar, and I will prove it to bee-keepers by telling them, long in advance, of any good honey-flow, or of any general failure, and I wish to ask space in the *AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL* for the publi-

cation of my predictions, which I expect to have prepared by February, 1892, and in which I wish to include California.

My aim is to convince bee-keepers that I am not a humbug, even if it takes 10 years, or longer, to do so. I would like the bee-keepers of North Central Iowa and Southern Illinois to send in their reports for this season, and see if they do not verify my predictions.

When I say that I can foretell a failure of the honey crop, or a good crop, I mean that I can tell the amount of nectar that the flowers will contain, if there are any flowers. There might be plenty of nectar in the flowers, and the weather be such that the bees could not work; or hot, dry weather might dry up the bloom, nectar and all.

Bees have had a long rest in this part of Tennessee, but they never gather any honey from July 15 or 20 until about Sept. 15 to 25, in this section. They are doing well now, and the weather is fine, but very hot and dry for this season, and will soon dry up the white bloom, if it continues.

Cosby, Tenn., Oct. 3, 1891.

Bee-Keeping in Wisconsin.

JOSHUA BULL.

The past season has been a very poor one for bee-keepers in this locality. My bees stored, on an average, about 35 pounds per colony, mostly comb-honey from white clover.

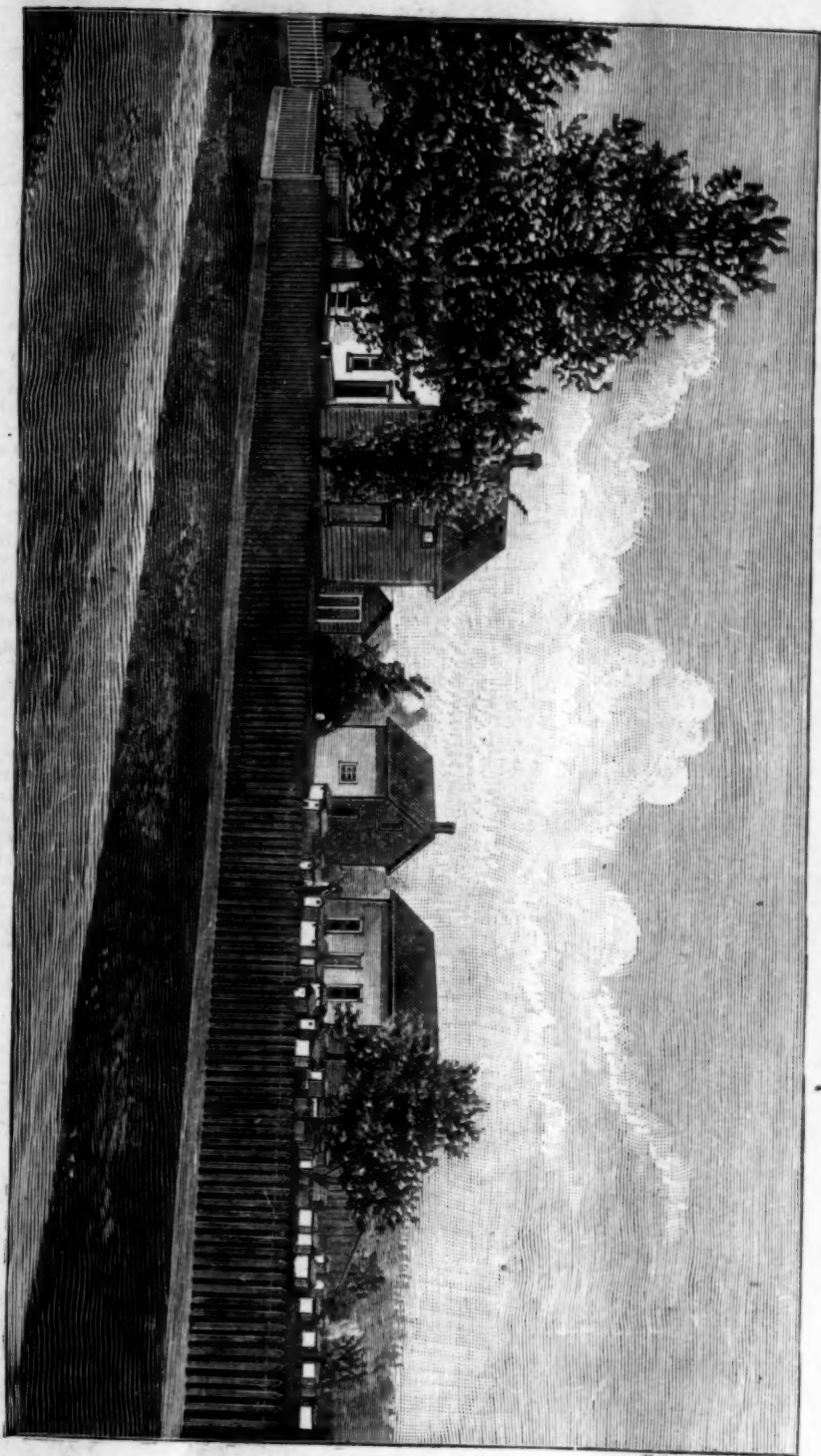
We got no basswood honey this year, the late frosts last Spring having destroyed the buds. The yield from Autumn flowers is very light, owing to the extreme drouth, which has not been so severe since 1871.

Forest fires are becoming very numerous and troublesome. The weather has been unusually warm for this season of the year, and during the past ten days the mercury has risen to 90° and upwards nearly every day; yesterday it stood at 94° in the shade. It is a little cooler to-day.

Having recently sold my farm I have had a photograph taken of my apiary before leaving it, and following the example of some others, I send a copy of the picture to the highly esteemed *AMERICAN BEE JOURNAL*.

The first building seen back of the dwelling house, is a poultry house, the second is a work-shop, where I made my hives and other fixtures, the third is a house, 20x25 feet. The lower story is

MR. JOSHUA BULL'S APIARY, SEYMOUR, WIS.



divided into two rooms, one of which is used for the general work of the apiary, such as handling sections and supers, extracting honey, etc., etc. The other room is for storage of honey after it is ready for market until sold. The fourth building, which is much obscured by the apple trees, is a house apiary, with the workings of which I am well pleased, and believe that it is a success.

Seymour, Wis., Sept. 25, 1891.

New Bee-Disease in Texas.

L. B. SMITH.

About a week ago as I was walking through my little apiary, I happened to notice an unusual amount of bees, dead and dying, lying in front of a hive that contained a strong colony. Thinking at first they were the old worn out bees, I went on and thought no more about it.

The next day I was looking at them again, and there was a pint or more dead in front of the entrance. I knew that something was the matter. I examined them, taking out all the frames, and found they had plenty of nice sealed honey, and plenty of sealed brood, but no eggs nor larvæ. The queen had stopped laying. Not knowing what to do for them, I let them alone, and in a few days they quit dying.

Then another colony took it, and every one died, queen and all. They still keep dying. I have lost two of my strongest colonies and about half of another. One of them contained my finest breeding queen, and I hated to part with her.

I find from investigating that several of my box-hive neighbors are losing bees in the same way. Some of them say the moth-worm is killing them, others say ants, while some of them say the king is dead, and they are fighting among themselves, trying to make each other work; but of course, all practical bee-men know different to that. They act more as if they were poisoned; but it cannot be that, for there is no poisoning going on in the country, and I know they are not poisoned. Now, if it is not the so-called nameless bee-disease, I have no idea what it is.

Symptoms of disease are, that it seems as if the old bees were effected. They will come rushing out somewhat excited, and will drop on the ground, after rolling over several times they die, while others will crawl several rods from the hive. They can be seen at all hours of the

day and night, crawling all over the place.

I can take a frame from the hive and shake it a little, and nearly half the bees will fall to the ground and never make an attempt to rise, nor get back to the hive, but will crawl off and die.

Their appearance and size is natural, so far as I can see, with the exception of a few that look somewhat swelled. I can take one and tear it open, and they seem to have an unusual amount of pollen in them, and smell very offensive. I have most of the standard works on bees, but have failed to find anything suited to this case.

Lometa, Texas.

The above is copied from the *Canadian Bee Journal*, and the editor makes the following comments on the matter:

Thank you very much, friend Smith, for giving us the particulars of your bee trouble. We have never had the like here, and never known a similar case to yours, therefore, we are at sea in the matter. In our experience we have endeavored to see what bees would do when poisoned, and they acted very much like you say yours act. We think there must be some poisonous plants in the locality, where they get more or less honey, or it may be from honey-dew; possibly it may be some strange disease.

We frequently find contagious diseases cropping up among the human race, and why may not similar diseases occur among bees? We think it would be worth your while to send samples of these dead and sick bees to Prof. Cook, Agricultural College, Mich., that he may examine them.

Wholesale Slaughter of Bees.

DR. G. C. MILLER.

FRIEND NEWMAN:—I am in receipt of the following letter:

"DEAR SIR:—I wish you would give me some advice, what to do and how to get about it. Two men, or a company of men, came to our town (Coulterville) and started an evaporator, and left their house doors and windows all open, and had four flues for drying their apples. Well, I keep bees. I have 128 colonies within 300 yards of the evaporator. So you see there was a perfect swarm on the road every day for 4 or 5 weeks, and they killed them by the million in their furnaces, and in a great many

other ways. I am a member of the National Bee-Keepers' Union, and can furnish plenty of evidence. I consider they killed more than one-third of my bees. I would have had over 2,000 pounds of honey this Fall, and now I will not have over 200 pounds, and I am afraid there will not be bees enough in the hives to keep them from freezing this Winter; and if that is the case, I will not get much honey next year. So you see the condition I am in. I wish you would see what can be done in my behalf.—R. H. WOODSIDE."

The above letter makes a powerful appeal to my sympathy, as I suppose it will to all bee-keepers, and yet I am afraid there is no redress. The evaporator company are in the pursuit of their legitimate business, and quite possibly are under the impression that they are the aggrieved parties, in suffering the annoyance of the bees. Is there any possibility of the bee-keeper securing anything for damages? If not, I suppose it is because there is no law touching the case, and the question arises whether there would not be justice in having such a law enacted.

Many dollars' worth of bees are killed every year by cider mills, sorghum mills, and other things of that kind. If the value of the bees thus killed is greater than the expense of enclosing such places against the bees, then it would be economy for the commonwealth to enact a law compelling the enclosure of all such places. Whether the expense of such enclosure should be borne entirely by the owners of such establishments, I am not prepared to say. Without any restriction, I can easily see how those persons who are active in driving out bee-keepers might have a ready means of destroying a whole apiary without the least fear of punishment. Is there any redress for our friend? If not, is it not desirable to secure a law that would make redress possible in such cases, arising in future?

Marengo, Ills.

[The evaporator people are no doubt the aggressors—they came in the neighborhood last, when the apiary was already established, and in running order—they began a legitimate business, but conducted it in a careless way, leaving attractions for the bees, alluring them to death. They have no cause for thinking themselves the aggrieved parties—they cannot complain! They

ought, in justice and equity, to screen out the bees.

The apiarist has good cause for complaint. His bees are enticed to their death! His rights to pursue a legitimate business are invaded! His property is destroyed, and his business is ruined!

But what is the remedy? In Mansfield's Digest, Sec. 751, we find full details of the power to abate a public nuisance; but this evaporator, probably, is not a public nuisance, only an interference with the business of a private individual, and as such would be a more difficult matter to prosecute than if it was detrimental to the public at large.

Our advice would be to arrange a conference between the apiarist and the managers of the evaporator, and then settle matters amicably, if possible. Let the doors and windows of the establishment be protected by screens or mosquito-bar (it costs but a trifle), and thus prevent the wholesale destruction of the bees.

If the company object to the expense, it would be advisable for the apiarist to contribute toward that purpose, even if it became necessary for him to pay 99 per cent. of the cost, to accomplish the screening.

If negotiations all fail, then some other way may present itself for the solution of the difficulty.—Ed.]

Crowding the Brood-Nest.

C. W. DAYTON.

For several years past we have had very cold Springs, and it has been my custom to contract the brood-chambers down to five or six combs, with division-boards, and remove the extra combs to the honey-house. Then when the season advanced—grew warmer—and the colonies became strong enough to cover and rear brood in more than the five or six combs, the combs which had been removed were brought out, and, one or two at a time, inserted in the hives again.

In giving a colony another comb at this season, I put it at the side of the brood, not in the center. If it is put in

the center, it does not hasten brood-rearing very much, if any, but tends to scatter the brood, and if it turns cold, some of the outside brood may chill.

During the last eight or ten years there have been four or five times when the combs were not returned to the hives fast enough; generally by neglect. What was the consequence? Well, it was this: The five or six combs were found thoroughly crowded with brood and bees, little ridges of new comb started here and there, and in a large number of hives queen-cells were under way.

It is seldom that I desire any swarm at all. I prefer to run the colonies straight through the season, in full force. Now, when these colonies were found with queen-cells started for swarming, the division-boards were moved further away, and four or five more combs put in at once.

Did they preserve the cells and cast a swarm, after the addition of combs and the enlargement of the brood-chamber? They did not. Not one colony in 75 swarmed. In less than three days all these queen-cells were emptied of their contents.

What became of the eggs and larvæ that the queen-cells contained? I believe the bees removed them. I never believed that these colonies had the "swarming fever." Still, in all probability they would have swarmed if allowed to remain in their contracted condition.

At other times cells were far enough along to be capped when the original brood-combs were distributed amongst three times their number of empty combs and foundation, and they swarmed just the same. Even if the cells were cut out, they started more and swarmed.

"A stitch in time saves nine," runs the old adage, and it is no more applicable anywhere than in the prevention of swarming. The way to apply it is to destroy the cells as soon as started, instead of destroying them after they are finished. It would be still more advantageous to prevent eggs ever being placed in the cups.

If there is empty comb, either for the storage of honey or the rearing of brood, close to the brood-nest all the time, not one colony in fifty swarms.

In most systems of management the brood-chamber remains undisturbed from the Spring until the honey harvest, containing from 8 to 10 combs, and in this space the honey and brood must crowd each other. If sections are put on, they are an empty, unenticing apart-

ment, that bees have no use for, just before the harvest, and it is so difficult to crowd bees into them through the bee-spaces and honey-boards that they choose to hang out at the entrance instead. This is when the "swarming fever" rises.

The best way is to use a hive of the capacity of 12 to 14 combs, and keep spreading the colony by inserting empty combs, or wide frames of sections, between the brood-combs until, when the honey harvest begins one is not required to put on the surplus receptacles all at once, in one or two days, but work them into the hives gradually, and when the harvest arrives in earnest the strongest colonies will already be in the surplus receptacles—will have gotten acquainted with them, and be ready to bring in the honey.

It may be truthfully said that bees do not swarm until they get their hives crowded with brood, bees and honey; and few hives in use are large enough to prevent this. But why are hives too small? The hives are calculated to be of such size that they may become so full of brood that nearly all the honey gathered must be stored outside the brood-chamber—that is, it would be forced outside the brood-chamber into marketable combs.

The bees do not pass from the brood-chamber into a super near so readily as from one comb to another in the lower hive. In 1882 I had so much difficulty in getting the bees into the sections that I filled two hives half full of division-boards and half full of brood-combs, and then filled a section rack half full of sections, and placed the sections between the two hives. After that I divided my hives horizontally 5 inches in depth, like Mr. Heddon's new hive. All this was to get the empty sections located between the brood-combs.

After traversing in the upward direction for awhile, I concluded there were entirely too many sections in a super to alternate with the brood in any manner. The intention was to make the bees work in the sections drawing out the foundation when there was not very much honey coming in, or if they were going to hang outside the brood-nest to hang in the sections. In some instances, in the case of the divided brood-chambers, sections had the foundation built out only at the top and bottom where they came near the upper and lower brood apartments, and sometimes 2 or 3 sections were worked out as a road or "run way" between the brood apartments.

From this it was concluded to put the sections in wide frames in the lower hive, and alternate with the brood-combs, as they would then work upon the whole face of the sections, and on both sides.

The trouble here was that the queen filled the sections (as soon as filled with comb) with eggs, which necessitated taking them out, and keeping them out long enough to chill the eggs and then put them into supers.

This was entirely too slow work, so it was decided to confine the queen in an apartment 8 or 10 days before the harvest, and run the sections right through the harvest in wide frames in the lower story. In fact, the brood and queen are surrounded by sections on two sides beside the top of the hive.

I confine the queen in the apartment by the use of two peculiarly constructed division boards, and three or four strips of zinc to fit into the spaces between the frames, and which may be instantly adjusted or removed from any kind of frames in use. The division-board is applied to the frames—not to the hives, as would generally be supposed.

At first, five or six brood-frames were allowed to remain in the queen's apartment, but have now reduced the number to four, and may eventually reduce the number to three, as the space of time necessary for the queen to be restrained is much less than was at first supposed.

By this method I manage to contract the queen's *laying space* while the bees are allowed all the space for the storage of honey that the capacity of the hive will afford.

Clinton, Wis.

Carniolan Bees—Honey Crop.

D. C. M'LEOD.

I have had some experience with the Carniolan bees, having received queens from four queen breeders—two from Mr. Pratt, and one from each of the others—all claiming that their stock was pure, but I had better looking Carniolans in my apiary, which were a cross from a queen that I bought several years ago, when A. I. Root published so much about them in *Gleanings*, but the queen was not pure.

Last year I sent to a queen breeder for a queen. My order was one of the first of the season, but was overlooked, and I waited until Fall, and then wrote to him, asking if he intended to send the queen. I received an immediate answer,

stating that my order had been overlooked, but that he would send two queens the next week—one to fill the order, and the other for the annoyance I had been subjected to—and the week following that he would send a third one, to show his good will.

The queens all came safely, and were successfully introduced, but so late that no brood was reared last year, and I could not tell anything about them until Spring. However, they all proved to be purely bred, beautiful silver and gray Carniolans; not a mixed bee in either of the three colonies. They are beauties.

The honey crop was a failure last year, and this year it is worse than last, there being no honey, except from fruit bloom. White clover gave us no honey, and Fall flowers are yielding no nectar. Bees in this locality will have to be fed.

Pana, Ills., Oct. 2, 1891.

Defending the Black Bees.

JOHN HANDEL.

I am pleased to notice that Mr. Ellingwood has put in a plea of defense for our native or black bee.

I looked over the advertising columns expecting to find improved native queens for sale, but found none.

Mr. Ellingwood is like hundreds of others, honey-producers, of course, and readers of the BEE JOURNAL, who are really sick and disgusted with the many slanders flung at their brown pets.

I do not object to queen-breeders booming the strain of bees they have to sell, but the testimony, and consequently the slurs of those who, having a colony of Italians in a new frame hive, protecting them and supplying them with all necessities, and at the end of the season comparing them with their blacks in their neglected box-hive, is found in print quite too often.

The keepers of black bees, like the bees they keep, are not much inclined to defend themselves, and while some of the keepers of Italians are robbing the blacks of their good name, the Italians are robbing them of their stores.

The fact that the blacks do not defend their homes sufficiently, is only true when that inquisitive Italian is around prying into every crack, and taking them by surprise (I mean their honey), before sunrise, for if those who boom the Italians' early rising qualities will rise early themselves, and rub the dust out of their eyes, so they can see where

their yellow pets go for breakfast, they will find good reasons why their Italians build up faster in the Spring than their blacks.

Savana, Ills.

Sugar Syrup in the Sections.

ALLEN LATHAM.

While on the street here yesterday, I saw in a store what appeared to be some excellent comb-honey. It was offered at the low price of 18 cents, retail. I said to myself, "How's this? I must try a box."

I took the box to my room and examined it. It was beautiful, and I thought at first that I was deceived in questioning its purity. I cut the comb. The honey was colorless and glassy in appearance. I tasted it, and the flavor was extremely mild. There was a bee-taste, but the flavor resembled no honey known to me, and I know nearly all the kinds in this section of the country. The taste left in the mouth was just that which is left after eating granulated sugar syrup.

The carton in which the honey came is labeled: "Choice Comb-Honey, from the Green Mountain Apiary of O. J. Lowrey, Jericho, Vermont."

I am not the one to be sticking my nose into business which does not concern me, but I think that this is not honey, and will bear investigation.

I may be mistaken, yet I detected a similar fraud practiced by Dr. Searles, of Worcester, Mass. Last year he took all the premiums in the New England Fair upon honey, and all the honey that he exhibited was sugar syrup stored in combs. The box which I bought yesterday was exactly like some which I got from Dr. Searles.

The merchant here says that he bought all that Mr. Lowrey had at a bargain. He calls it the best honey he ever had in his store.

Cambridge, Mass., Sept. 30, 1891.

[Sugar syrup should never be fed to the bees except to keep them from starving, to stimulate breeding, or for Winter stores. To let them store it in sections for sale is a fraud. No honest person would allow it to be done. If Mr. Lowrey has inadvertently permitted this, he should at once recall all that unsold, and thus remedy, as far as possible, the evil effect of such a transac-

tion. If he has not done it intentionally, the readers of the BEE JOURNAL would be glad to hear from him.—ED.]

Honey-Dew Not Marketable.

In some places large quantities of honey-dew have been stored the past season. It is possible that some of this may be harmless, but that gathered from some trees and plants will undoubtedly be injurious to Winter stores. I should be afraid to risk it, especially if wintered in a cellar or other bee repository.

It may do very well for feeding in the Spring; but on no account should it be put on the market, either as extracted or comb-honey. It will surely ruin your market if you do.

It is safe to offer for sale no honey that you would not put on the table when you have company. A bee-keeper ought to be a good judge of the quality of honey, and he ought never to sell any that he knows is not first-class, because honey is bought as a luxury, not as a staple article of food. People who buy a thing as a luxury are willing to pay a good price for it if it suits their taste, but, with good sugar at 5 cents per pound, you must not expect they will call a second time for a low quality of honey.—*Farmer and Breeder.*

Convention Notices.

The Michigan State Bee-Keepers' Association will meet in Grand Rapids, Mich., on Thursday, Dec. 31, 1891, and Friday, Jan. 1, 1892. Geo. E. HILTON, Sec., Fremont, Mich.

The Northwestern Bee-Keepers' Society will hold its annual convention at the Commercial Hotel, corner of Lake and Dearborn Streets, in Chicago, Ill., on Thursday and Friday, Nov. 19 and 20, at 9 a.m. Arrangements have been made with the Hotel for back room, one bed, two persons, \$1.75 per day, each; front room, \$2.00 per day for each person. This date occurs during the Exposition, when excursion rates on the railroads will be one fare for the round-trip.

W. Z. HUTCHINSON, sec., Flint, Mich.

The Executive Committee have fixed the date of the next session of the North American Bee-Keepers' Association, Dec. 8 to 11, at Albany. There will be an informal meeting on the evening of Tuesday, Dec. 8, for getting acquainted, etc. The real work of the convention will commence Wednesday morning, and extend through two full days, ending Friday morning, giving distant delegates time to get home before Sunday. We want all to get there if possible on Tuesday. If they have a few hours of daylight it will give an opportunity to look around the city, view the capitol building, etc. Reduced rates have already been secured in all trunk-line territory, and the same is expected over other railroads. The programme is now under way, and other arrangements are nearly completed. If you have decided to take a vacation that will, we trust, be profitable don't fail to attend this convention.

F. H. ELWOOD, Pres., Starkville, N. Y.
C. P. DADANT, Sec., Hamilton, Ills.

CONVENTION DIRECTORY.*Time and place of meeting.*

1891.
 Nov. 19, 20.—Northwestern, at Chicago, Ills.
 W. Z. Hutchinson, Sec., Flint, Mich.
 Dec. 31.—Michigan State, at Grand Rapids.
 Geo. E. Hilton, Sec., Fremont, Mich.
 Dec. 8, 11.—North American, at Albany, N. Y.
 C. P. Dadant, Sec., Hamilton, Ills.

13 In order to have this table complete, Secretaries are requested to forward full particulars of the time and the place of each future meeting.—THE EDITOR.

North American Bee-Keepers' Association

PRESIDENT—P. H. Elwood....Starkville, N. Y.
 SECRETARY—C. P. Dadant.....Hamilton, Ills.

National Bee-Keepers' Union.

PRESIDENT—James Heddon...Dowagiac, Mich.
 SEC'Y AND MANAGER—T. G. Newman, Chicago.

Bee and Honey Gossip.

13 Do not write anything for publication on the same sheet of paper with business matters, unless it can be torn apart without interfering with either part of the letter.

Excellent Fall Crop.

Bees in this vicinity have done excellently this season. Especially is this true as regards the honey crop from Fall flowers.

W. H. HEPLER.

Manhattan, Kans.

Owing to the Drouth.

Bees are not getting any honey now, on account of the drouth. Old colonies will have enough stores for Winter, but young ones will have to be fed. I have used several smokers, but like the Bing-ham best of all—especially the "Doctor." I can smoke bees to death with it. The dovetailed hive, with Hoffman frames, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch top-bar, is my favorite—no more burr-combs now.

EDW. SMITH.

Carpenter, Ills., Oct. 5, 1891.

Bees Short of Stores.

This has been a poor season for the apiarist in this portion of the country. The best of them are just about making expenses. Colonies are light in stores; averaging about one-half enough for safe wintering. I commenced in the Spring with 112 colonies, increased to 155; and took 2,000 pounds of comb-

honey in 1-pound sections, and 500 pounds of extracted. We are hoping for and expecting a better season next year.

A. A. BALDWIN.

Independence, Mo.

Best Bees for the Locality.

I am familiar with but two races of bees, and their crosses, viz.: the German, or black bee, and the Italian. A prominent apiarist has said that the "relative merits of the two races have been discussed and settled 20 years ago, yet occasionally partisans revise and often reverse the judgment then arrived at. Unfortunately for the cause of truth, these discussions are not always for the sake of truth. Partiality, or what is worse, selfishness, will obscure a fact, and the diseased moral condition which hides a fact will substitute a falsehood." There is another class, who, although less reprehensible, are yet unworthy of credence. With them, a single swallow makes the Summer, and this is about all the fault I can find with these men. Conditions alter cases, and it is possible that what is best for me might not be best for some one else. One man may live where honey comes like Summer rain, and in such a locality, who can doubt but that the German bee will get her share of it; but with me it is sip, drip; sip drip; and the unbounded energy of the Italians is needed to gather it.

JAMES HAMILTON.

Beason, Ills.

Peculiarities of an Old Queen.

A number of years ago I procured an Italian queen, and her bees were all right—all had three yellow bands—but after she had been in the hive about 4 years, the bees began to be dark, and unevenly marked, and some were nearly black. I thought, of course, that the old queen had been superseded, but on examination I found that same old clipped queen in the hive, and still laying, but seeming to be much smaller and weaker than formerly. In the Fall, I discovered a single queen-cell in the hive. I removed this, and was surprised, a few days later, to find another cell started. This one was not disturbed, and in due time a queen came out, and I saw her depositing eggs on one side of a comb, and the old queen on the other side. After destroying the old queen, the bees again became all alike—that is, the diversity of color disappeared with the removal of the old queen. I wish to

know what caused this queen to lay eggs at first which produced three-banded bees, and later in life the same queen produced one and two-banded bees?

O. P. MILLER.

Glendon, Iowa.

[As the queen was old, having been in the hive 4 years, it was evident that she was exhausted; and some imperfection in her ancestry, perhaps, cropped out, showing that although she was so nearly pure as not to show any variation in the markings of her progeny when she was young, in old age, when the contents of her spermatheca became exhausted, she might lay eggs which produced bees unevenly marked, or some very dark ones.—Ed.]

No Fall Honey Crop.

The honey season, just closed, was not very good. From over 90 colonies in the Spring, I have sold a little over 1,000 pounds of white comb-honey; there is quite an amount of honey-dew and mixed, which is not fit for market. We have had only one light shower of rain in over five weeks. There has been no honey gathered from buckwheat or Fall blossoms, and the pastures are dried up.

It did me good to read your article, on page 421, on Foreign Mails. I send the following item from the *Liverpool Courier*, showing the injustice of the whole system:

"A Bostonian landed in Liverpool a few weeks ago, and purchased, among other things, two small brooches as birthday presents for American children. The two cost 16s. As jewelry is not permitted to enter the States by post, a little box was sent by the Parcel Express, costing 2s. The official charges have just come to hand on the printed sheet of a leading express company, and I transcribe them: Duties, \$1.00; cartage, shipping and delivery, 35 cents; postage, etc., 10 cents; entries, custom-house fees, etc., \$1.20; total, \$2.65. Call this in English money 10s. 7d., which, with the cost of carriage to New York, 2s., gives us 12s. 7d. for two little trinkets costing 16s. A fact of this kind is worth many arguments, and does much to open the eyes of traveling Americans."

W. ADDENBROOKE.

North Prairie, Wis.

Gathering Honey Freely.

Poplar, linden and sourwood are our best honey producers here. We had a good flow of honey through a portion of April; also through May and June the flow was excellent. Linden and sourwood failed, and there was no honey gathered from June until about the last of August. Bees are doing well here now, working on Spanish-needle (smartweed, as some call it), but mostly on the asters, or what we call white-top weeds, gathering honey freely. Bee-keepers here who do not know their business, very nearly starved out their bees in the months when no honey was gathered. I have heard of some starving to death, but if the honey-flows in for a few days longer, they will all be in good condition for Winter, as the asters, golden-rod and some other varieties of flowers grow in abundance here. We have plenty of white clover, but it hardly ever yields any honey, I think. There is a kind of vine here that generally yields some honey in August. Some people call it wild hop vine. How do laying workers originate? Will they be found in a hive deprived of a queen in the absence of larvæ? Will mature workers turn to laying? I have had a good deal of experience with queenless colonies, which is my reason for asking these questions.

R. A. SHULTZ.

Cosby, Tenn., Sept. 27, 1891.

[Many mature worker-bees are capable of laying eggs, and in a queenless colony often use that power in the futile effort to save the colony from extinction—but their eggs only produce drones. Every worker-bee, being a female, could have become a mother or "queen" had it received the necessary food and attention in the larval state. But with undeveloped sexual conditions, and being infertile, their eggs only produce drones. As these "laying workers" are matured, their presence is in no way dependent upon the presence of larvæ.—Ed.]

Another Failure.

The honey crop in this section has proved a failure again this season, or nearly so. Bees have sufficient stores for Winter, if the strong colonies are made to help the weak ones.

A. J. HATFIELD.

South Bend, Ind.

Wavelets of News.

Fairs and Bee-Lore.

I am pleased to see that these grand reunions of our people are generally so well attended throughout the country this season, and that they have so many interesting features, as, for instance, old settlers' and children's day. Here we meet old friends and schoolmates of our early days, and are reminded of the past intervening years.

At one of these fairs I met an old schoolmate whom I had not seen for 40 years, and I said, "Sarah, what have you been doing all these years?" She answered sadly, "O, cooking and washing." It is important that cooking should be done as long as people must eat, but the sadness of this woman's voice caused me to think that her soul was hungry, and had not been properly fed along with her body, as is the case with many.

When bee-keepers meet at the general round-up, we always ask, "What papers do you take?" One who is fully up to the times, has learned by reading the opinions and practices of all the prominent bee-keepers of the world. Bee-culture has advanced with rapid gait during the last decade, and as soon as one forward step is taken, it is heralded all over the world through the agency of the press.—Mrs. L. HARRISON, in the *Prairie Farmer*.

How to Rear and Preserve Drones.

It is well known to most bee-keepers that colonies having fertile queens will not rear nor permit drones to live in the hive late in the season, and seldom when forage is scarce.

If queen-rearing is going on, drones must be procured at any cost, and some means must be adopted to rear and preserve them for use in the latter part of the season. To do this, the following method is necessary. Have at hand several extra frames of drone comb, insert one in the center of the colony from whose queen you wish to rear them. Feed this colony liberally if forage is scarce.

Examine them in the course of a week; if the comb is well filled with eggs and larvae, remove it to a queenless colony. Instinct teaches queenless bees the necessity of rearing and caring for drones, hence they can always be

depended upon for this, provided the brood is given them.

Replace the comb just removed with an empty one, continue this as long as the queen can be induced to lay drone eggs. Remember that queenless bees never destroy drones, while a colony having a fertile queen will invariably do so, unless encouraged to preserve them by being fed.—A. REUSCH, in *Charlton* (Iowa) *Herald*.

Lighting a Smoker.

We have just learned a new way to light the Clark smoker. We cram it with excelsior sawdust, then close the door tight. We next strike a match on the sandpaper, work the bellows, and then hold the blaze directly against the perforations under the smoker, just back of the front legs. The flame will shoot in, ignite the fuel, and the smoker so lighted is almost sure to stay so.

English Ivy and the Bees.

English ivy is blooming profusely about the carved stone newel posts of the terrace stairway in Central Park, and myriads of honey-bees haunt the region. The English ivy is thoroughly domesticated in the park, but of all the climbing plants cultivated in the park, the Japanese ampelopsis, or ivy, is the most satisfactory. It is hiding all the ugly walls about Central Park, and will eventually be trained along the bluff side of Morningside Park, so as to make for that charming strip a solid background of green.—*New York Sun*.

Bees vs. Fruit.

Horticulturists throughout the country complain of bees damaging their fruit. They should remember that it is owing to the services of bees in fertilizing the bloom that they have a crop of fruit. Bees do not tear open the skin of pears, peaches and grapes, but when it is broken by birds or wasps, they suck out all the juice.

Lately I was gathering some grapes, and there was not a bee to be seen upon the bunches upon the vines. The grapes were very ripe, and were easily broken from the stem, and I soon noticed that the basket was lively with bees. Very ripe peaches were not molested unless the skin was broken.

I tried drying peaches in the sun, but I soon found that they were covered

with bees, which were sucking out all their sweetness, and removed them to the stove oven.

All that the bees get from fruit does not more than pay them for performing the marriage rite to the flowers. Why begrudge them a small pittance?—Mrs. L. HARRISON, in the *Prairie Farmer*.

Agricultural Experiments.

The lack of suitable men has not been the only drawback to the work of the younger stations. Two clauses in the act passed by congress allowing only \$3,000 of the first and \$750 of each succeeding appropriation to be used for buildings, and requiring that from the very first at least four bulletins a year be issued, while ultimately it may prove of advantage to them, has certainly tended at first to bring them no praise. It was supposed that the states would furnish buildings, but unfortunately some of them furnished either inadequate ones or none at all, and in one or two instances even the annual appropriation which the state had previously given to the agricultural college was abolished.

The fact that quarterly bulletins were required by law, whether the station had valuable matter on hand or not, coupled with the fact that in many instances men wholly new to the business had to write them, tended at first to distribute more or less matter of questionable value. As the bulletins have general circulation among the class for which they are intended only in the state in which they were issued, many states necessarily sent out some compilations on the same topics which, to all practical purposes, were duplicates of each other. Bulletins, too, had to be written in popular style, in order that they might be understood by men whose education, in too many instances, had been limited to the winter district school.

If it be also remembered that these newly formed stations have been organized scarcely three years, and have not been in working order for that length of time; that they are going through the same trials as the older stations have had; that they have to break down the prejudices of many farmers, as the older stations have largely done; and that they were popularly expected to show in a few months results equal to those which even the German experiment stations have conquered only after years of strict application, with the aid of the best scientists of that scientific nation—it cannot be wondered at that these newborn stations have in several instances fallen short of what was expected of them.—Professor Charles L. Parsons in *Popular Science Monthly*.

Sign of Robbing.

Early in the morning, or late in the evening, as you walk through the yard, if you find a hive that has a lot of cappings, or little fine bits of comb about the entrance, watch it, and as soon as the bees commence to fly, see if robbers are not operating there.—*Canadian Bee Journal*.

Honey-Dew for Winter Stores.

Mr. Heddon, in the *Missouri Bee-Keeper*, says he thinks we have no reason whatever to fear any disastrous results from wintering our bees on stores of honey-dew. He relates an instance of where Dr. Southard, of Kalamazoo, once fed honey-dew to 5 colonies until they had no other stores for Winter, yet they wintered perfectly.—*Review*.

Sugar Syrup for Winter Stores.

I settled this matter satisfactorily to myself the first season I kept bees. One of my neighbors was going to "brimstone" some second and third swarms so as to get the honey, or "take them up" as it was called, and I obtained permission to drum out the bees and put them into one of my hives.

I put four into one, giving them empty frames and about 30 pounds of syrup, and they came out in the Spring better than those that had honey stores. Since then I have frequently fed syrup for wintering bees, and found it to answer as well as the best honey.

Now that sugar has become so cheap, it would pay those that have the time to devote to it, to extract pretty closely at the end of the honey season and feed syrup. Be sure to use the best sugar, to give it in sufficient quantities, and to clean out the combs that are to be used for extracting in the Spring, so that none be left to mix with the honey.—REV. J. CARSWELL, in the *Canadian Bee Journal*.

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The sewing machine I got of you still gives excellent satisfaction—W. J. PATTERSON, Sullivan, Ills.

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M. H. HUNT, Bell Branch, Mich.

CHICAGO, Oct. 10.—The demand is slow for 1-lb. comb-honey, with good supply. We quote: Choice white comb, 14@16c. Extracted, 6@8c. Beeswax, in light supply, and demand slow, at 27c.

J. A. LAMON, 44-46 S. Water St.

ALBANY, N. Y., Oct. 9.—Demand is improving; supply moderate. We quote: White comb, 12@17c. Extracted, 6@8c. Beeswax, scarce and in good demand at 26@28c.

H. R. WRIGHT, 326-328 Broadway.

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